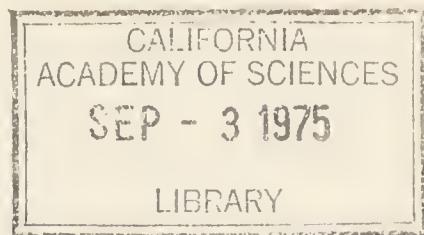


M&O
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the GULL

Volume 57

Berkeley, Calif.

September 1975

Number 8

SUPERLATIVE PROGRAM FOR SEASON'S FIRST MEETING

Bonxies? Tysties? Sound like strange birds? If you're curious, our opening meeting of the year is the place to be.

We are extremely fortunate in securing John Lister-Kaye, well known Scottish naturalist and former associate of Gavin Maxwell, for our opening meeting of the year, October 16, at 7:30 p.m.

This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the beautiful Scottish Highlands and Islands, with their varied wildlife, lovely wild flowers, and hauntingly beautiful scenery. John brings a fine collection of colored slides, and will share his experiences as a naturalist and guide in this fascinating land. His discussion will include the nesting of rare species in the highlands, the great seabird colonies of the Shetlands, and perhaps even the challenges faced by a young man leading a group of eager Californians into these remote areas (for ten days in May, John, with great good humor and remarkable fortitude, led the California Academy of Sciences' tour to the "Islands Around Britain").

Included in the slides will be pictures of nesting Eider, Slavonian (Horned) Grebes and Red-Throated Loons, "Bonxies", "Tysties", and Puffins, as well as the teeming high-rise apartments of the Razor-bills, Guillemots, Gannets, Shags, and Kittiwakes on the northern islands.

This exceptional program will be held in our usual place — the First Unitarian Church, Franklin and Geary Streets, in San Francisco. Mark October 16 at 7:30 p.m. on your calendar now. You'll be glad you did. (Please note this is one week later than our usual meeting date, a change necessary to take advantage of this opportunity for a truly fine speaker). See you there!

CLASSIFICATION OF FIELD TRIPS

Although most of our field trips will be moderately paced and suitable for experts and beginners alike, we will, at the suggestion of many of our members, "classify" some of our trips. There won't be any codes or numbers, just a few key words to give you some idea what to expect.

"For beginners"—Special effort will be made by the leaders to point out field marks of common birds. Ask any question you want, no matter how "ignorant" you feel. Experts are more than welcome to come along and share their knowledge, but shouldn't expect the group to move along quickly and find the unusual.

"For experienced"—Emphasis will be on uncommon or hard-to-find birds. This may involve moving from spot to spot at a brisk pace, or prolonged stops to study obscure or little-known field marks. Beginners are welcome, but should keep in mind that the pace may be too fast (or too slow!) for your enjoyment, and that there will not necessarily be detailed explanation of every bird seen.

"Instructional"—Usually short trips to study particular areas or birds. If you are seriously interested in increasing your knowledge of birds, no matter if you are an old hand or a newcomer, you should find these trips worthwhile.

Other terms used, such as "leisurely", "fast moving", "little walking", "walk five miles", will be self-explanatory. Read the trip descriptions carefully; there will be trips for every taste.

FIELD TRIPS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Saturday, Sep. 6—Meet at Stanyan and Hayes at 9:00 a.m. for a leisurely walk in **Golden Gate Park** (for details see *August Gull*). Leader: Roberta Long (564-7767).

Sunday, Sep. 7—Meet at 6:00 a.m. at University and Oxford in Berkeley for trip to **Woodland—Davis area** (for details see *August Gull*). Leader: Rick Johnson (339-1747).

Saturday, Sep. 13 and Thursday, Sep. 18—**Tilden Park** for fall migrants. Meet AC Transit bus 67 at 8:15 a.m. at corner of Spruce St. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. Choose your own leader. Lunch optional.

Sunday, Sep. 14 and Wednesday, Sep. 17—**Coyote Hills Regional Park** (northeast of Dumbarton Bridge) for shorebirds, Great Horned and Burrowing Owls. From Hwy. 17 take Jarvis Ave. exit west to Newark Blvd. (first signal). Turn right, go about one mile to Patterson Ranch Road. Turn left, go to first big parking lot on left. Meet at 9:00 a.m. Leader for Sunday: Peter Allen (781-0148); leader for Wednesday: Virginia Sherwood (841-2161).

Saturday, Sep. 20—Bodega Bay for a close look at our common coastal birds, especially shorebirds. A good trip for beginners. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** in the large parking lot in the center of the town of Bodega Bay, 60 miles north of San Francisco on Hwy. 1. Leader: Tom Harvey (284-7681).

Sunday, Sep. 21—Birding along the coast for pelagic and coastal migrants; paced for experienced birders. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** at the **Pigeon Point lighthouse**, 40 miles south of San Francisco on Hwy. 1 (between Pescadero Creek and Año Nuevo). Leader: Barry Sauppc (349-8470).

Wednesday, Sep. 24—Mini-walk for seniors at **Alameda South Shore** to see shorebirds. Meet at **9:45 a.m.** at Lincoln Park, High St. and Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. Public transportation: take "O" bus from San Francisco, or 51 or 58 bus from Oakland. Bring lunch. Leader: Elsie Roemer (552-0941); coordinator: Harriet Fraser (611-4787).

Saturday, Sep. 27—A fast-paced trip on the **Point Reyes Peninsula** for rare migrants and vagrants; suitable for experienced birders. All participants should have studied the fall plumages of eastern warblers before this trip. The group may split at each stop to ensure maximum coverage. Meet at **6:30 a.m.** in the parking lot behind the grocery store in Inverness. Bring lunch. Leaders: Dick Erickson (451-0748) and Don Roberson (865-2462).

Sunday, Sep. 28—Tomales Point. A 6-8 mile walk to explore the northern end of the Point Reyes Peninsula for pelagic birds, shorebirds, and landbirds. If too foggy, we may move to Abbot's Lagoon or another nearby spot. Meet in the McClure's Beach parkng lot at the end of Pierce Point Rd. at **8:30 a.m.** Take Sir Francis Drake Hwy. north out of Inverness, turn right to McClure's Beach—Tomales Bay State Park. Bring warm clothing and lunch. Leaders: Nick Story (527-0210) and Lucy Waskell (339-0488).

Saturday, Oct. 4—A more leisurely follow-up of the Sep. 27 trip. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** at the Inverness Store, as before. We'll look for unusual migrants as well as common birds, and walk one mile to Chimney Rock. Leader: Aileen Pierson (587-4163).

Other trips planned—Oct. 11, Limantour Estero; Oct. 12, Bay Bridge toll plaza (for terns); Oct. 15 and 18, Marin Headlands; Oct. 19, Annadel State Park; Oct. 26, Land's End, San Francisco; Nov. 1, Benicia Marsh; Dec. 6 and 7, Sacramento Valley refuges. Bus trips: Dec. 7, Gridley refuge.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

RAIL-WATCHERS!

High tides, of 6.6' and over, are scheduled for the following dates this fall: Nov. 3, 30; Dec. 1, 3, 2, 29, 30, 31. A field trip will be scheduled — see Oct. *Gull*.

FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE*Fall Classes in Natural History*

Albany High School, 904 Talbot St., Albany 94706

Ornithology for Beginners with Joe Morlan, well-known local birder, Starting Sept. 16, meeting Tuesdays 7:15 - 9:45 p.m. and Saturdays 9 - 11 a.m. The meetings on Saturday are field trips.

Other natural history courses, including plant subjects, are in the planning stage. Costs and other information may be obtained by phoning Albany Adult School at 526-6441.

HAPPENINGS

UC-Berkeley Extension — Natural Environment — Natural environment studies in the fall term, beginning the week of September 22, include subjects from astronomy to zoology and that range from the Bay Area along the Pacific Coast to the mountains, and to Mexico or Hawaii. Classes are scheduled one evening a week on the Berkeley campus or in San Francisco. Weekend field trips and special programs are offered throughout the term and present a variety of choices, among them "Nature Walks for People with Young Children, with Margot Patterson Doss," a weekend in the Sierra to study "John Muir's California," or to Monterey to study the "California Gray Whale and California Sea Otter." They're all described fully in a free brochure on Fall Natural Environment Studies; write to University of California Extension, 2223 Fulton Street, Berkeley, Ca 94720, or call (415) 642-4111.

Morning Nature Walks at Tilden — Working folks who want to enjoy the cool, still beauty of the East Bay hills before clocking in for their day's business are invited to join naturalists for a 7 a.m. outing every Wednesday this summer at the Tilden Nature Area.

Early mornings in Tilden Park are generally chilly and sometimes foggy, so walkers are advised to come prepared with extra outer wear.

Another mid-week program, Thursdays at 1 p.m., features the same walk for later risers. Walks all leave from the Environmental Education Center. For information, call 531-9300.

Walks With Tom Williams — The last Whitell field trip will be conducted on September 20 and start from the parking lot of the Emeryville City Hall, exit from the East Bay Freeway (Cal. 17) at Powell Street and turn west.

Another trip is being planned for December 6 at 10 a.m. to the Navy's Pt. Molate Fuel Depot near the Richmond anchorage of the San Rafael Bridge. Plans for reforestation and wildlife management within the naval area will be presented. Some of the historic buildings may be open during the trip. We will also observe the waterfowl and shorebirds. Hopefully, we will also be able to visit the chaparral and woodlands on the Standard Oil lands across the ridge crest to the east of the naval area. We want to focus attention on the area, to acquaint GGAS members with

the status of this land. It is completely encircled by Standard Oil developments, which has destroyed much of its wildlife habitat.

For information on these trips and to let Tom know you will be attending, please notify Tom at 548-0930.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory will offer an **ornithology course** this fall. Ten meetings will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, September 13 through November 15 and will include five field trips and five lectures. Cost, \$30. Contact Bob Stewart, P.O. Box 321, Bolinas, California 94924.

PRBO is also conducting a series of **Sunday bird walks**, free to anyone interested. All start at 9:00 a.m.

Sep. 14—Deer Park to Phoenix Lake. Meet at Deer Park School in Fairfax. Turn off Sir Francis Drake Blvd. onto Bolinas Ave., then left on Porteus to the school.

Sep. 21—Bear Valley Trail. Meet at Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters, in the dirt parking lot near the trailhead.

Sep. 28—Bolinas Ridge. Meet at the corner of Sir Francis Drake Hwy. and Hwy. 1 in Olema.

Oct. 5—PRBO and vicinity. Meet at Observatory headquarters, at the end of Mesa Rd. northwest of Bolinas.

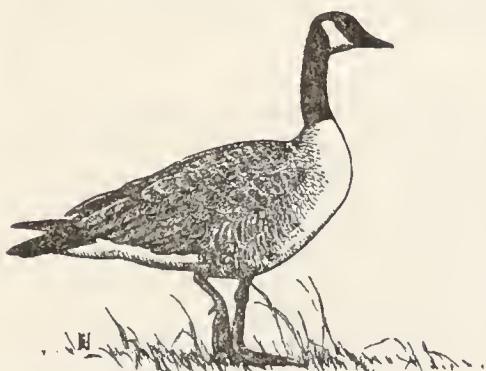
Oct. 12—Muddy Hollow—Limantour Estero. Meet at the Limantour Parking lot.

Oct. 26—Bolinas Lagoon. Meet at the northeast corner of the lagoon, on Bolinas—Fairfax Rd.

Nov. 2—Abbott's Lagoon. Meet at the Abbott's Lagoon parking area on Pierce Point Rd., bring knee boots.

On all trips, bring a knapsack lunch, cup, and binoculars.

Conservation



geese, ducks and loons. Grizzly

THREAT TO ARCTIC WILDLIFE: A treaty between the United States and Canada, opening the way for an Arctic Gas pipeline to cut across the vulnerable tundra area of the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Range, will probably have been signed by the time this appears in *The Gull*. This Wildlife Range is a haven for endangered Peregrine Falcons, Snowy Owls and Gyrfalcons, and is the summer nesting-place for Trumpeter Swans, and Polar Bears den there. Wolves,

Arctic Foxes, Muskoxen and tens of thousands of Caribou are residents.

President Ford is expected to seek authorization from Congress for the pipeline, thus by-passing Federal Power Commission proceedings and the National Environmental Policy Act.

FISH AND GAME NOTES: Remember to send for your non-game species decal.

Send \$5.00 to:

Decal

Box DFG

Sacramento, Ca 95801

Because of public criticism of some of Fish and Game's actions, such as the Sea Otter "management" plan, the new Director, Charles Fullerton, formed a Citizen Non-Game Committee. (Ironically, at a meeting which I attended, the members of the Committee felt that the Sea Otter question was too hot to handle.) This Committee is chaired by Maxine McClosky of the Sierra Club and includes as a member our National Audubon Western Regional Director, Paul Howard. The Committee is charged with defining objectives for non-game programs, recommending projects, and suggesting means of financing these programs.



The 1972 Fish and Game report on California's endangered and rare wildlife, "At the Crossroads", listed 12,000 California Brown Pelicans along our coast and the only remaining nesting colony, that on Anacapa Island, as incapable of reproduction. The 1974 issue of this publication shows reproduction for the 20,000 pelicans frequenting California and the Anacapa Island (plus parts of Santa Cruz Island) to be 57 and 34 for 1972 and 1973 respectively. How good it was to have observed a group of 35 Brown Pelicans, looking healthy and happy, fishing in Rodeo Lagoon in July. The Environmental Protection Agency's ban on DDT is seemingly paying off.

There is less happy news from Louisiana where, according to the "Audubon Leader", 80% of that state's Brown Pelicans have died recently from what laboratory tests have shown to be lethal concentrations of endrin, dieldrin, toxaphene, and that old culprit DDT. These chemicals probably washed into the Mississippi River from states upstream of Louisiana. The pelicans were from a restocked population of about 500 brought from Florida in 1968; all of Louisiana's pelicans, the state bird, were wiped out after the advent of DDT. The deaths of these birds is an example of the harm that can be caused by the use of long-lived hydrocarbon pesticides.

OLD ENGLISH QUATRAIN

The law condemns the man or woman
Who steals the goose from off the common,
But lets the greater felon loose
Who steals the common from the goose.

Anon.

BOOK REVIEW: "The Twilight Seas" by Sally Carriger (and wonderfully illustrated by Peter Parnall).

I urge you to read this hauntingly beautiful and sad account of the life-cycle of the Great Blue Whale. This largest of the world's creatures seems doomed to join the Passenger Pigeon in extinction, due to man's greed for short-range corporate profits.

CAPTAIN JACQUES COUSTEAU testified before the California State Legislature last March about the deterioration of the oceans. He said that the overall fish population of the world has decreased 30% in the last 20 years. The main cause of peril to the oceans is ignorance about the sea, where men are behaving like barbarian hunters with the help of the latest technology. Mechanical destruction such as: careless coastal and harbor developments, landfills, carving the coastline with earth-moving equipment, and creating harbors and basins can be as polluting as permanent toxic chemicals. These activities destroy the complex biological network. Cousteau feels that we must all become convinced that by caring about the oceans and by protecting the water systems leading to the sea we may well get the highest prize of all: survival of our species and an improved quality of life for future generations. He closed his address by stating, "Our individual consciousness is no longer capable of coping with the problems of the planet. We must develop a new global consciousness to motivate us to make the necessary sacrifices without delay".

The passage of Proposition 20 in 1972 resulted in the formation of the California Coastal Zone Commission. The Commission's Preliminary Draft Coastal Plan, issued in March, has received strong support from the Bay Area Audubon Council and the So. California Audubon Coordinating Council. Blaming the voters for the loss of construction jobs, James S. Lee, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council, has been quoted as saying, "We are going to do everything in our power to see that the Commission dies when its enabling legislation expires in 1976".

—SHIRLEY TAYLOR; *Conservation Editor*

Notes From Paul Covel

Earthcare — The 14th Biennial Wilderness Conference opened June 5 at the United Nations, New York, co-sponsored by the Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society. Exec. Asst. to Kurt Waldheim, Mr. Ismat Kittani, greeted the delegates. Registration of nearly 700 people included many representatives of African and other Third World countries. Sierra Club's 25 staffers held a separate conference in upstate N.Y. after Earth-care.

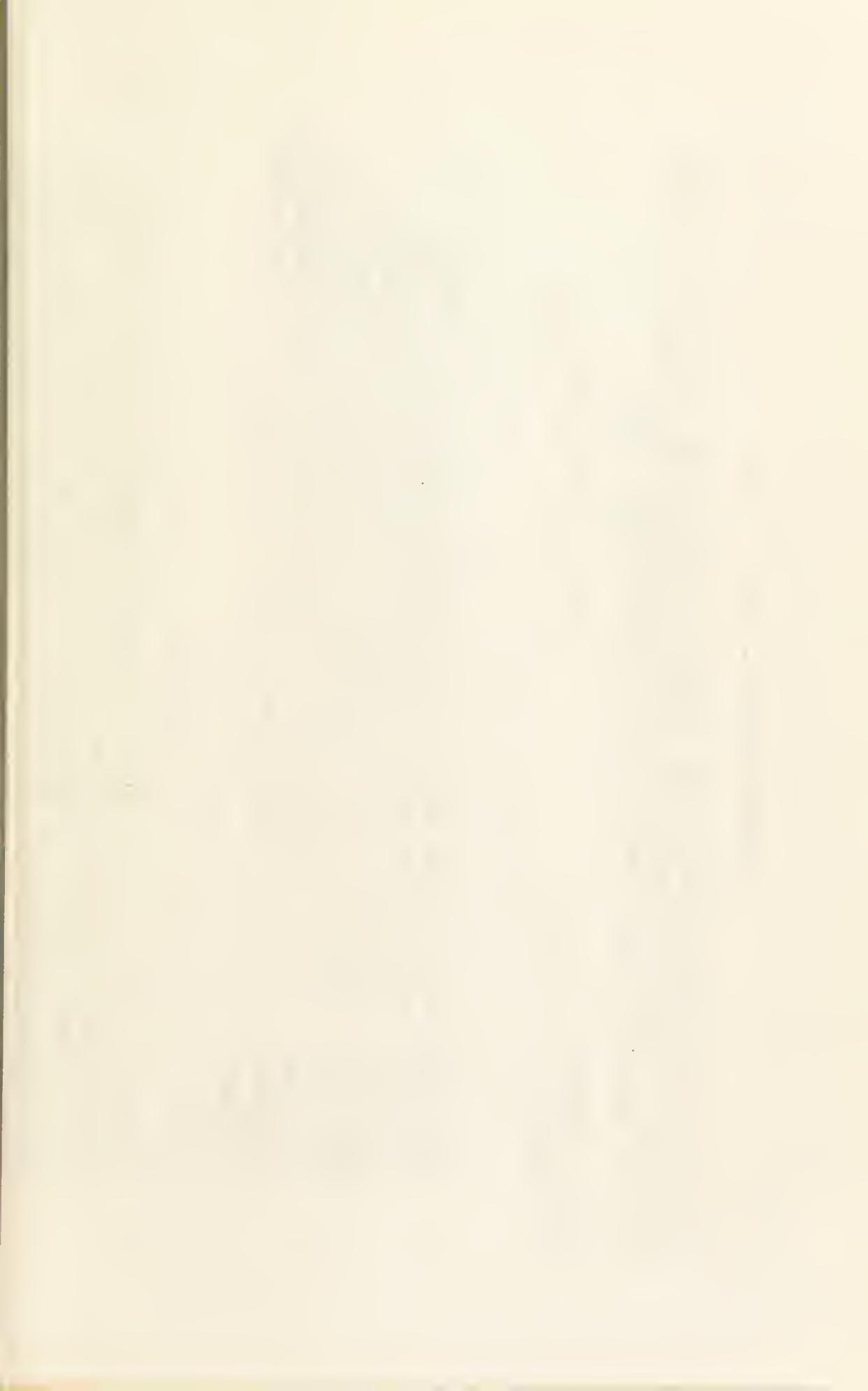
Speakers at the June 6-7 sessions at the New York Hilton included: Dr. Elvis Stahr, Roger Tory Peterson, Chas. Callison and Roland Clement of N. A. S.; Judge Raymond J. Sherwin, Nicholas A. Robinson and Michael McClosky of the Sierra Club; Nathaniel P. Reed of the Dept. of the Interior; Russell W. Peterson and Lee M. Talbot of the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality; Ms. Jeanne Sauvé, Canadian Minister of the Environment; Gerado Budowski of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature; Dave Brower of Friends of the Earth, and delegates from England, France, Egypt, Ghana, Israel, Iran, Kenya, Mexico, Sweden, the USSR and Venezuela.

During the Conference Banquet on the 6th the Earthcare Award was presented to President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela, through his representative, and the John Muir Award to Justice William O. Douglas in person. This program featured Gov. Jay Hammond of Alaska . . . a man facing agonizing decisions . . . and an outstanding whale film by Roger Payne of the N.Y. Zoological Society.

Your delegate was privileged to be introduced to Audubon Headquarters — three action-packed floors in a modern 3rd Ave. Building designed by Roland Clement, who is preparing to become NAS Latin America Representative.

* * * * *

Egrets Nesting At Lake Merritt — a dream and hope come true! Both egret species have long been common winter visitors at the Lake Merritt Waterfowl Refuge, but heron nesting on the five man-made Duck Islands has been preempted in past years by the Black-Crowned Night Herons. Their colony increased to over fifty nests in spring of 1975. Last April, I noted mating behaviour of two pairs of Greater (Common) Egrets. During my absence in May, the Naturalist Staff discovered nests of both the Greater and Snowy Egret on the Duck Islands, located both in the bottle-brush (*Melaleuca*) and in the Casuarina trees. Hatched young in nests were first noted on June 8th. Staff member Rex Burress began a photographic record and reported at least young of the two species reached the flying stage in July. So — Marin Island and Canyon Ranch have a new competitor, although we suspect the Lake Merritt birds came from the diminishing Lake Chabot colony. But our satisfaction and anticipation are tempered by the realization that foraging raccoons exist close to Lake Merritt, as well as other potential heron nesting enemies.



AUDUBON ALERT - Sept. 1975

The following three items were deemed sufficiently important enough to bring to the attention of the entire membership. There is still time to express your views to your Congressmen: c/o

Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

*

House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

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1. CLEAN AIR ACT The Senate Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution rejected a proposal to delay 1978 Clean Air Act statutory standards for hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide auto emissions until 1982 and to weaken the 0.4 nitrogen oxide standard. Both the Senate and House Subcommittees considering the Clean Air Act amendments are working to get the legislation reported to the full committee before the August 1 - September 1 recess.

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2. LOBBYING BILL . . . H.R. 8021 - Audubon President Elvis Stahr, who is also Chairman of the Coalition of Concerned Charities, has written all 23 sponsors of H.R. 8021 to express his thanks for having introduced the bill. This is a carefully drafted, ~~an~~ other excellent measure much needed to clarify the rules

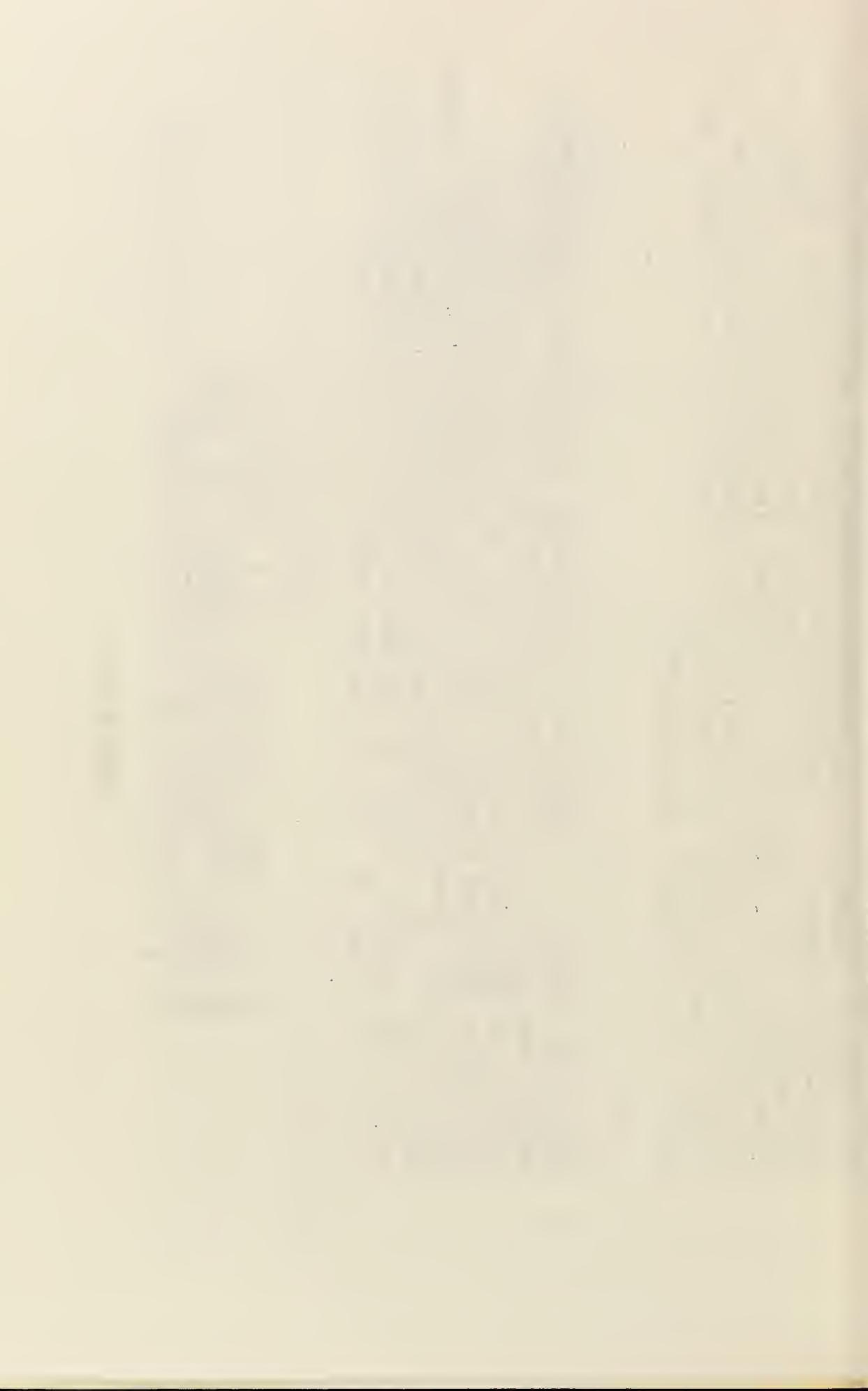
The bill is known as the Conable-Corman bill, after its two principal sponsors, Representatives Barber D. Conable, Jr., Rochester, N.Y., and James C. Corman, Van Nuys, Calif. The bill strengthens and clarifies the present language of the U.S. Tax Code to give specific guidelines for lobbying activities; for the first time it would set budgetary allowances for activities intended to influence legislation.

* * *

3. 200 MILE LIMIT.....Other very important conservation legislation will come up for a vote after the summer recess. Senate Bill 1988, H.R. 200 would extend the U.S. control of resources to 200 miles off our coasts. This would protect our fishermen from foreign poaching and prevent the dumping of oil from tankers off-shore. Whales, which are now being killed as close as 60 miles off Eureka, would be protected and the enforcement against dolphin killing by tuna fishermen would be made easier.

WE ARE VERY INTERESTED IN A TABULATION OF THE RESPONSE OF OUR MEMBERS TO THESE MATTERS. PLEASE CALL 843-2222 OR DROP US A POSTCARD IF YOU TOOK ANY ACTION.

THANK YOU.



Bird's Eye View of the Bay

Wildlife's open spaces have had little relief from attack this summer, but a few bright rays of hope still shine. Heartening support comes from the firm stands taken by the Fish and Wildlife Service, technical advisors to the Corps of Engineers, whose decisions become law. The Engineers have relied on, and strongly supported, the F & WS recommendations. Enormous contributions to the cause of conservation have come from these sources, and lasting benefits have been achieved. For example, they have obtained equivalent lands at other locations, in exchange for marshlands lost to such projects as the Vallejo Industrial Park and Larkspur's Ferry Terminal. Success in their efforts has come in spite of great pressure from land developers. Additional projects now under way require continued effort to keep our marshes. Richmond and Foster City are among the most urgent problems.



Richmond's plans for a large marina and residential tract at Richmond Inner Harbor include the "Harbor Drive" extension of Hoffman Boulevard. Location of this road threatens the inland edge of the University of California's marsh at Richmond Field Station. GGAS protested the destruction of this marsh, and recommended routing the road along the western side of UC's land, to connect with Hoffman Boulevard near the Safeway warehouse. Richmond countered with a proposal for a 4-laned highway across the marsh. This route would block the marsh's vital connection with Bay waters. We urge that you support GGAS' position, in the hope that Audubon Society can acquire about half the existing marsh. Together with UC's portion, the entire marsh could be used for needed research. GGAS will continue to monitor developments.

Please write on this and other matters to: (1) Chancellor's Office, California Hall, UC Berkeley, and to UC Real Estate Dept., University Hall, also at UBC. (2) Your congressman, (3) Col. H. A. Flertzheim, Jr., District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, 100 McAllister St., San Francisco, Ca 94102. (4) Dr. Felix Smith, River Basin Studies, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. Your letters and comments to these people will help greatly in meeting and overcoming the tremendous pressures from the strong, active developers' interests.

Also simmering near Richmond is Richmond Sanitary Landfill's application to approve existing unauthorized dikes and fills (p. 93, Aug. 1975 "Gull"). This concerns the filling-in of Red Rock Marina and the beds of San Pablo-Wildcat Creeks.

East Bay Regional Parks' setting of Whitell Marsh hearings in September has forced cancellation of the Nov. 10 field trip to Whitell Marsh noted in the Aug. "Gull". Any one interested in the Whitell Marsh should call Tom Williams right away (548-0939).

To the south, Foster City developers are battling to persuade the Engineers to allow the filling of 380 acres of existing marshes for use as housing tracts. (It hasn't happened recently, but I visited Foster City after a major flood, caused by conjunction of high tide and heavy rainfall; some of the houses had over a foot of water and debris to clean up, and thousands of dollars worth of carpets to replace.) Within the proposed fill, the Fish and Wildlife Service has recommended setting aside about 60 acres (17%) of the total area for wildlife and recreation. This reserve would be opened to free tidal flow by cutting existing barriers. Foster City has offered, instead, 57 acres of lower quality marsh, at another location. Foster City's plan would substitute poor quality lands, with effective loss of about two-thirds of the present support value now available to the Bay's beleaguered wildlife. We believe that the reduction in support value is a great disservice to wildlife, and hope that you will urge your congressmen and others to support the Engineers and F & W Service recommendations and insist that the full 60 acre reserve be set aside within the proposed fill. There would still be some 320 acres for building homes, some 83% of the total.

—TOM WILLIAMS (548-0939)

JULY OBSERVATIONS

Offshore trips in Monterey Bay produced 3 **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels** this July (BE, PK, *fide* DD); though the species breeds in small numbers on offshore islands to the north, it has been seen much less frequently in the past decade. A **Trumpeter Swan** was reported from Shingletton, Shasta Co. July 13 (SL); though quite rare in California the sighting is not far, comparatively, from the breeding range. **Black Brants** again summered at Año Nuevo, as 6 were there July 26 (JRI); 2 **Harlequin Ducks** there the same day again confirm the summering status of this normally absent species. A **Red Knot** at Año Nuevo July 26 (FN, JRI) was on time for the beginning of fall migration. A fall-plumaged **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was discovered at Pescadero Aug. 3 (SFB, JM, *et al*), and was seen through Aug. 5; recently it has been found that this bird is a rare but regular spring migrant in California, especially at the Salton Sea, but fall migration records are much fewer. According to Small in *The Birds of California*, this would constitute only the third fall record. Perhaps the first summer record of **Thayer's Gull** is a bird photographed at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza July 4 (DD). An adult **Laughing Gull** was at Pt. Piños June 27 (RS), perhaps being the same bird seen at the Carmel River mouth earlier this summer. Two **Common Terns** that arrived at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza July 4 and remained through the month were early (DD, JM); an **Elegant Tern** arrived there July 6 and remained alone until July 31, when 10 were found (JM). Several alcids rare inside the Bay were seen from

shore in early August: a **Common Murre** on the 6th at the Berkeley marina (JM, SFB, BR), and even better, **Pigeon Guillemots** at Berkeley Aug. 2 (BR) and Emeryville Aug. 6 (JM *et al*). A weakened **Xantus' Murrelet** was picked up at the San Mateo Co. fairgrounds Aug. 4 (International Bird Rescue). A **Tufted Puffin**, rarely seen from shore, was observed from Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co. July 23 (BS). Considering the Horned Puffin phenomenon mentioned last month, it was not totally unexpected for a **Horned Puffin** to be found in weakened condition on Ocean Beach, San Francisco July 29 (LCB). What may be the first California nesting of **Chimney Swifts** occurred in Davis this July (RS *et al*). One of the pair that stayed in the area all month was seen carrying nesting material into a chimney on July 4, and later the birds were only seen individually, indicating that one was perhaps incubating eggs. Another **Chimney Swift** was seen at Bolinas Lagoon July 19 (JM). Contra Costa Co. is within the range of the **Black-chinned Hummingbird**, but it is not often reported there. However, two sightings were received: a male in Concord garden all month (CE, AE, JRi) and a female at Bethel Island July 20 (JM, DE). A **Dipper**, out of range and out of season, was in Golden Gate Park July 5 (JR, TT).

Observers: Stephen F. Bailey, Lawrence C. Binford, Dick Dean, Agnes Eckford, Carl Eckford, Bruce Elliot, Dick Erickson, Paul Kelly, Steve Laymon, Joe Morlan, Fran Nelson, Jean Richmond (JRi), Jolee Roberson (JR), Bill Rogers, Barry Sauppe, Rich Stallcup, Terry Taylor.

—DON ROBERSON, *Observation Editor*
2244 Encinal Ave. #5, Alameda, Calif. 94501 (865-2462)

NOTES FROM HELEN PRATT, AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

For the first time in the nine years that I have been studying the heronry at Audubon Canyon Ranch and probably for the first time since the ranch was purchased by the local Audubon Societies, predation was a serious threat to the nesting herons and egrets. We first noticed nests with bloody remains of egret chicks early in June. On 19 June, nest loss had reached disastrous proportions. Skip Schwartz decided that it was essential to stage a night watch in the hope of finding out which of the possible predators might be responsible.

On the evening of 20 June, Skip, Libby Meyers and I arrived at the overlook by 8 p.m. equipped with binoculars, scopes, and bright flashlights. We examined the section of the heronry where there were still some nests with eggs and young to verify nest contents.

At about 8:45, we heard raucous cries of alarm from that part of the heronry. The adults were standing, giving the warning call and looking down. Soon the face of a raccoon appeared. Before the night was over, it had raided six nests in that cluster of trees — one egret nest with eggs, four with chicks, and one heron nest with chicks.

It has been the stated policy of Audubon Canyon Ranch to study and observe natural phenomena without interfering in the course of events, but we felt that this racoon could in time destroy the very focal point of the ranch, the herony itself.

Skip rounded up racoon cages, and within the next five days he captured five racoons which were taken to a different section of Marin County and released. Many egrets re-established nests, but the season was so far advanced it seems unlikely that they would raise any chicks. It appears that only 5 egret chicks will fledge instead of about 100 that we would normally expect.

We all regret that we discovered the predator too late to save the egret chicks this year. However, the experience gained will provide a guide for prompt action in the future if a similar situation arises again.

Whooping Crane Update

The first captive-bred, whooping crane which was hatched May 29 at the Interior Departments Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland, died six weeks later, apparently from congenital deformity. Another important experiment, however, has fared better. Fourteen eggs were taken from nests of wild whoopers in Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada this spring and put in sandhill crane nests in Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho. (Only one of the two eggs normally laid by a whooper in the wild is expected to produce a chick anyway, so Interior wildlife experts have felt taking the "second" egg for a promising experiment is justified.) Of the 14 eggs taken to Grays Lake, 9 have produced chicks. In this way, wildlife scientists hope to start a new flock of wild whooping cranes wintering in New Mexico with their foster (Sandhill) parents, and breeding at Grays Lake.

Corrections: The following correction to *Status (Standing Rules)* in last month's issue, should be noted: B *Financial*, 9, should read "All motions raised at Board meetings that request expenditure of more than \$25.00 not previously budgeted must be referred to the Finance Committee for their recommendations before the Board votes on the motion.

Articles 11 and 12 should be corrected to read:

11 (line 8) Disbursements shall be made by the Treasurer in accordance with the wishes of the donor. Gifts and donations unspecified as to use shall be automatically donated to Audubon Canyon Ranch monthly up to a total of all such gifts of \$150 in any one month. All amounts in excess of \$150 shall be placed in the general funds of the Society to be used to defray budgeted expenditures of any kind and such un-budgeted expenditures of any kind as the Board from time to time authorizes in the usual manner.

12. Request for reimbursement of allowed expenses shall be made the week after the close of each month on the form *Report for Reimbursement of Expenses* available from the Society's office, except that if the amount to be reimbursed is more than \$10, it may be added to month by month until the month that the accumulated expenses first reach \$10, at the end of which month, or in any case by April 1st, the request for reimbursement must be submitted and not further accumulated.

DON'T MISS THIS

The film on the Dolphin-Tuna controversy made by Stan Manasian of "Save the Dolphins" will be shown on Friday, Sept. 5th on Channel 5.

Autumnal

Remember how,
on frost-tipped, predawn mornings,
we listened, wanting to be
the first to hear
Canadian Geese
bring autumn on their wings.

ss

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For Audubon Canyon Ranch

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| <i>In memory of:</i> | <i>Gift of:</i> |
| Peggy McCormick | Susan West |
| Robert W. Morgan | Amy and Harold Bush |
| Stanley Bialos | Vi and George Homem, Elsie B. Roemer, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Troxell |
| James A. Buchanan | Margaret A. Byers, Stan Picher |

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>In honor of:</i> | <i>Gift of:</i> |
| Paul Covel | Mr. and Mrs. Andrew M. White |

For GGAS

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>In memory of:</i> | <i>Gift of:</i> |
| Charles J. Shokal | Directorate Reserve Components Support Presidio of San Francisco |
| Abraham Levin | Marion Davidson, Ida Sinai |
| Edna Cooper | Former Co-workers San Francisco Retirement System |
| Stanley Bialos | Partners and employees of the Law Offices of Gregg, Hendrieson, Caplan & Pecker |

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>General</i> | <i>Gift of:</i> |
| GGAS | Peggy and Loren Meissner |

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or if unspecified, at the discretion of the Board. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a co-sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. to Mrs. Robert C. Johnsen, Corresponding Secretary, 4 Del Valle, Orinda, CA 94563. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations, and bequests will be acknowledged in *THE GULL*, as well as personally on behalf of the Society, by the Corresponding Secretary.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
Statement of Changes in Fund Balances
Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 1975

GENERAL FUND

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Cash In Banks, May 31, 1974 | \$ 9,758.42 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|

Receipts

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Membership Dues | \$24,371.50 |
| Gifts and Donations (including \$1,246.50 specified Audubon Canyon Ranch) | 1,852.25 |
| Interest Earned on Savings Accounts | 634.00 |
| GULL Subscriptions - Non Members | 408.96 |
| Wildlife Films (1973-74 Series) | 424.82 |
| Chartered Bus Field Trips | 2,321.00 |
| Pelagic Trips | 1,592.00 |
| Annual Dinner (Net) | 102.55 |
| Miscellaneous | 129.17 <u>31,836.25</u> |
| | <u>41,594.67</u> |

Expenditures

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Meetings — General and Board | \$ 277.40 |
| GULL — Printing and Mailing | 8,889.58 |
| Field Trips | 2,294.82 |
| Pelagic Trips | 1,654.76 |
| Christmas Bird Count | 282.06 |
| Salary — Office Manager | 5,550.00 |
| Rent — Office | 1,792.36 |
| Telephone | 197.21 |
| Office Supplies | 277.26 |
| Office Equipment and Repair | 455.35 |
| Postage | 501.98 |
| Printing — General | 382.48 |
| Reimbursed Expenses — Board and Committees | 187.89 |
| President's Expenses — NAS Convention | 540.95 |
| Gifts and Donations (including \$1,659.25 Audubon Canyon Ranch) | 2,343.75 |
| Scholarship — Audubon Camp of West | 137.50 |
| Rare Bird Alert | 295.25 |
| Conservation Hotline | 181.82 |
| Auditing | 575.00 |
| Insurance | 263.00 |
| Payroll Taxes | 558.64 |
| IRS Penalties | 350.00 |
| Other Taxes | 38.26 |
| Miscellaneous | 256.59 <u>28,283.91</u> |
| Cash in Banks, May 31, 1975 | <u>\$13,310.76</u> |

LIFE MEMBERSHIP RESERVE

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Cash in Bank, May 31, 1974 | \$ 1,400.00 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|

Receipts

| | |
|--|--------|
| Mr. E. E. Henning, Jr.; Miss Surrey Kent | 200.00 |
|--|--------|

 1,600.00
Disbursements

NONE

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Cash in Bank, May 31, 1975 | \$ 1,600.00 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|

ENDOWMENT FUND

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Balance, May 31, 1974 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|---|

Receipts

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Marjorie Milner Atkinson Bequest | 12,086.58 |
|--|-----------|

Disbursements

NONE

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Cash in Bank, May 31, 1975 | \$ 12,086.58 |
|----------------------------------|--------------|

—ROBERT C. JOHNSEN, *Treasurer*

The Executive Committee of Golden Gate Audubon Society announces with regret its acceptance of the resignation of E. E. "Bud" Henning — "for compelling personal reasons" — from the office of President. First Vice President Mary Louise Rosegay has assumed the presidency of GGAS. The Executive Committee expresses its appreciation to Bud for his past services on the Finance Committee, and as a Director, and wishes him well.

Aids for Birders

Bound for the Northwest? Tahoma Audubon Society's 1975-76 "Operation Nature Guide", lists people, their addresses and phone numbers, who can guide you to find new birds and other wildlife and habitats. For a copy, send \$1 to: NATURE GUIDE, 34915 4th Ave. S., Federal Way, WA 98002. There's a 10% discount for 25 copies or more.

A further source of information as to where to go for "good birds" is the "American Birds" magazine, which is mostly a digest of bird censuses. A little homework prior to your trip can produce a fair "bird list", and can help locate particular species in which you are interested.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
Office: 843-2222
Berkeley, California 94705
2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206
Recorded bird report: 843-2211

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Officers

Acting President, Mary Louise Rosegay (561-5127)
First Vice President, (Vacant)
Second Vice President, Betty Olds (848-1407)
Treasurer, Robert C. Johnsen (254-3919)
Recording Secretary, Naomi Svenningsen
Corresponding Secretary, Lenore Johnsen (254-3919)

Directors

Christopher G. Carpenter (376-6802)
Claire Johnson (530-7118)
Bill Love (581-4449)
Wm. S. Picher (441-1551)
Aileen Pierson (587-4163)
Barry Spitz (441-4565)

Standing Committee Chairpersons

| | |
|--|--|
| Conservation, Shirley Taylor (845-2415) Tom Williams (548-0939) | Program, Peter White |
| Education, Dr. James O. Clayton (524-2917) | Nominating, Bill Love (581-4449) |
| Field Trips, Marie Mans (284-7681) | Publications, Sharon Sauve (526-8746) |
| Finance, Barry Spitz (441-4565) | Clarence F. Smith (524-2525) |
| Membership, Robert E. O'Brien (526-8241) | Publicity, Christopher G. Carpenter (376-6802) |

Above are all members of the Board of Directors.

Bird Observations, Don Roberson (865-2462)
Northern Calif. Rare Bird Alert, Joe Morlan (654-1358)
Conservation Hotline Editor, Anne Greenfelder (843-2222)
Office Manager, Vera Paraschak (843-2222)

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office
2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. It will be forwarded.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$15 per year (individual); \$18 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks (no cash) payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$3 per year; single issues 30¢. High school and college student membership \$7 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon Society in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.